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Ministry of Education

$1.6 MILLION IN SEISMIC UPGRADES TO MAKE SCHOOL SAFER

PORT HARDY – The Province has approved $1.6 million in seismic upgrades to Eagle View elementary school to help make students and staff safer in the event of an earthquake, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced today.

"School safety is a top priority for our government," said Bond. "The upgrade to Eagle View elementary is part of the Province's $1.5-billion seismic plan and another step towards making all schools in B.C. safer in the event of an earthquake."

The funding will be used to upgrade the metal deck roof and new connections will be installed between the roof deck and concrete walls. In addition, steel reinforcing and metal cladding will be added to the concrete masonry walls to create new shearwalls. Most of this work will be done on the exterior of the school.

"We are very pleased that the Ministry of Education has supported our request for seismic upgrading at Eagle View elementary," said Leighton Wishart, vice-chair of the Vancouver Island North school board. "This will ensure we have the safest possible environment for our students and staff."

The work is expected to take place over nine months, from July 2007 to March 2008. Eagle View elementary opened in 1971, with an addition built in 1992. At that time, the original gymnasium was seismically upgraded.

Since 2001-02, the Province has invested $5.4 million in capital funding in the Vancouver Island North school district for buses and maintenance projects. During the same period, the Province has spent over $1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovations projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than $2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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